



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
North Pacific Division

# Columbia River Update

Volume 1 Issue #5

<http://www.npd.usace.army.mil/#news>

June 13, 1997

Public Affairs Office 503-808-3710

While some rivers in the Columbia Basin continue to slowly rise for the short term because of snow melt, hydrologists are beginning to see a slow recession in others.

The Upper Snake will experience continued high flows for the next few days with the gage at Heise, downstream of Jackson Lake and the Bureau of Reclamation's Palisades Dam, expected to peak tomorrow at 42,7000 cubic feet per second (cfs), and five feet above flood stage. With Jackson Lake and the Palisades reservoir near full, releases out of Palisades will be held to about 39,000 cfs for the next few days and then drop off. When the reservoirs top out, the amount of water coming in equals what goes out. At the Shelley, Idaho, gage, the Snake River is seeing record flows and is expected to crest near 14.8 feet on Saturday.

Flows on the Lower Snake neared 200,000 cfs yesterday, jumping about 20,000 cfs between Monday and Thursday as a result of slightly elevated releases out of Hell's Canyon Dam and rain. Lower Granite releases will average about 195,000 cfs over the next four days, while Ice Harbor releases will hover near the 198,000 cfs range. Reservoir operators note that all upstream gages are showing a slow dropoff in flows, indicating that the Lower Snake may have reached its peak.

In the Upper Columbia, inflows into the Lake Roosevelt reservoir at Grand Coulee averaged about 330,000 cfs and are expected to stay in that range over the next several days. The Bureau issued a Stage 1 Flood alert earlier this week when releases from the reservoir hit 285,000 cfs. Discharges will average about 290,000 cfs at Grand Coulee with the same daily average outflow target for Chief Joseph Dam downstream.

The Lower Columbia experienced a surge in outflows on Thursday when John Day releases went to 580,000 to slow the refill rate behind the dam which had increased a foot in ten hours' time. Those flows are expected to stay at that level through the weekend. The John Day reservoir level was 265.6 feet on Friday, June 13. The recommended operating range at John Day reservoir is 257 to 268 feet.

Harbor levels at Vancouver are expected to range from 18.2 to 18.8 through Monday, about 2 feet over flood stage. The Morrison Street gage on the Willamette River will see a fairly steady level of about 18 feet.

The River Forecast Center's June 1997 runoff volume forecast for three key flood control points in the Columbia-Snake system shows Grand Coulee at 142% of normal for the April to September period; The Dalles at 145% of normal for the same time period; and Lower Granite at 154% of normal for April through July.

## Projected Flow Updates

Updated river flows and project operation data are available by calling the Corps Water Management hotline at **503-808-3989**.

Check out the Corps Water Management and Technical Management Team web pages and related web sites at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil>